

August 2001

Equipment transfer aids research at U. of West Florida

by Rex Swenson, Munitions Directorate

EGLIN AFB, Fla. — The saying, "One man's trash is another man's treasure," proved true recently as Air Force Research Laboratory officials donated surplus scientific equipment to the University of West Florida, saving the school between \$150,000 and \$175,000.

AFRL's Munitions Directorate donated a scanning electron microscope, infrared spectrometer and other equipment which "is tremendously useful and will broaden the horizons in not only student research, but research performed by faculty members as well," said

George Stewart, chairman of the UWF biology department. The donation idea came about during a Gulf Coast Alliance for Technology Transfer quarterly board of directors meeting a few months back, said Paulette Risher, Munitions Directorate business development branch chief.

Risher and William Huth, associate vice president for research and graduate studies at UWF, discussed different technology transfer mechanisms.

"I'd been made aware of some laboratory equipment that was going to be sent to the Defense Reutilization Marketing Office, where it probably would be sold off as scrap," Risher said.

Using the Education Partnership Agreement, Risher was able to offer Huth the equipment. According to the Educational Part-

nerships portion of the U.S. Code, "Under a partnership agreement with an educational institution, the director of a defense laboratory may provide assistance to the educational institution by transferring to the institution defense laboratory equipment determined by the director to be surplus."

With the path cleared, Allen Geohagan, a support contractor with the munitions directorate, worked the equipment transfer for the Air Force.

"I contacted Huth and worked out the details between the munitions directorate, the university and the Logistics Material Control Agency within the (Munitions Directorate)," Geohagan said.

Once the transfer was completed the university hospital, a tour of its science department, showing the equipment in action. After the tour Huth showed Geohagan a thesis paper he was reviewing that morning.

"One of our students recently did a paper on AIDS research and had to go off-campus to get the scanning electron microscope images for his research," Geohagan said. "Now our students will be able to do this same kind of research work right here. This donation is very valuable to both our students' and instructors' research." @



HOW IT WORKS — UWF faculty member, Phil Conklin, explains how the Infrared Spectrometer will assist organic chemistry and biology majors in their research at the university. (Air Force photo by Rex Swenson)



GETTING AN EDGE — Biology student, Rachael Poston is shown working with the scanning electron microscope. (Air Force photo by Rex Swenson)